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FILED

OCTOBER 19, 2005

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

Prahlad M. Patel, M.D. License No.: MA54438

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**CONSENT ORDER** 

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") upon the filing of an Administrative Complaint on June 16, 2003 alleging that Dr. Prahlad Patel ("Respondent") failed to appropriately evaluate and treat infants J.H. and N.S. when they presented to the emergency department. The hearing in this matter began on November 16, 2004 before Administrative Law Judge Jeff Masin. The matter continued on November 17, 2004 and November 18, 2004 and April 20, 2005. On September 1, 2005 ALJ Masin issued a Initial Decision in which he found that Respondent was grossly negligent in his care of both J.H. and N.S. A hearing on the Exceptions to the Initial Decision is scheduled before the Board of Medical Examiners for today, October 19, 2005.

It appearing that Respondent now desires to resolve this matter without further disciplinary proceedings, and the Board finding that the public health, safety and welfare are protected by the entry of this Order, and for other good cause shown,

- 1. Respondent's medical license is hereby suspended for two years, the entire period to be stayed and served as a period of probation, effective upon the date of entry of this Order;
- 2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from treating any patient under twelve (12) years of age for a minimum of two years, except under the monitoring of a Board approved pediatrician. Respondent shall cause the monitor to submit quarterly reports to the Medical Director of the Board of Medical Examiners advising as to his/her assessment of Respondent's management of such children as he treats within this age group. Respondent may petition the Board to lift the monitoring requirement after the two year period.
- 3. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from working as an emergency room physician until further Order of the Board;
- 4. Respondent shall pay civil penalties in the amount of \$30,000.00 and attorney fees, costs of investigation, costs of expert review and half of the transcription fees in the amount of \$50,000, for a total amount of \$80,000 which shall be paid within sixty days of the filing of this Order. Payment shall be made by check or money order made payable to the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners and mailed to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, 140 E. Front Street, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183.

- 5. If Respondent fails to comply with the terms of Paragraph 4, a Certificate of Debt shall be filed for the entire amount owed to the Board of \$80,000, which will only be discharged by Respondent's payment of this debt in full.
- 6. Respondent shall comply with the "Directives Applicable to Any Medical Board Licensee Who is Suspended, Revoked, or whose Surrender of License has been Accepted" which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Bernard Robins, M.D.

**Board President** 

I have read the within Order and agree to its terms.

Prahlad M. Patel, M.D.

I hereby consent to the form and entry of the within Order.

Rudolph Socey, Esa.